(f) whether Government are also aware that there are huge coal mines around this project;

(g) if so, what are the reasons for not sanctioning the coal linkage; and

(h) by when the linkage is likely to be made available to start construction of project work by the N.T.P.C. with details of expenditure involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) to (h) Till date, no sanction has been issued for the setting up of NTPC's Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra due to non-availability of coal from the nearby Wardha coal field. Several representations were received for an early sanction of the project and in view of these representations, the overall demand and availability position of coal from the Wardha coalfield has been examined by the Department of Coal who concluded that the coal requirement of the proposed project cannot be met from the Wardha Valley Coalfield. The Eighth plan is yet to be finalised. If a decision is taken by the Planning Commission to establish this plant, coal will have to come from distant sources which can be examined after the Planning Commission has finalised the list of 9th Plan schemes.

Petrochemical Complex on East Coast

620. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present there is no major petrochemical complex on the East Coast; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. P. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) At present there is no major petrochemical complex on the East Coast. However, following letters of intent have been issued for setting up such petrochemical complexes:

(i) To UB Petrochemicals Ltd. for setting up a 300,000 tpa ethylene capacity naphtha cracker at Visakhapatnam in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) To RPG Petrochem Ltd. for setting up a 4,25,000 tpe ethylene capacity, 100 per cent export oriented naphtha cacker complex in Tehsil Saidapet, Distt. Chingleputtee in the State of Tamilnadu.

(iii) To West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. for setting up 300,000 tpa ethylene capacity naphtha cracker complex at Haldia, District Midnapur in the State of West Bengal.

Waiting List for LPG Connections in the Country

621. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a large number of people on the waiting list for LPG connections in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, Statewise and Union Territorywise!

(c) whether Government propose to take some concrete steps to reduce this long waiting list; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) LPG being a deficit product, new enrolment of customers is limited. However, the LPG availability is proposed to be augumented through enhanced indigenous production and imports.